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**Contact: Crystal Pryor
502-517-6046**

Personnel Cabinet Hosts the 22nd Annual Governor's Equal Employment Opportunity Conference

*David A. Friedman honored as the 2008 recipient of the
Charles W. Anderson Laureate Award*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (October 1, 2008) — Today innovative leaders and employees from across the commonwealth gathered at the Lexington Convention Center to recognize achievements and share best practices from the public and private sector on Equal Employment Opportunities.

"It is our hope that this conference shall clearly articulate the values that the commonwealth places on diversity and inclusion in the workplace," said Secretary Nikki Jackson. "This conference is the cornerstone event for sharing ideas and helping to advance EEO principles in our state."

The featured speaker at this year's luncheon and awards ceremony, co-sponsored with the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) State Council, was Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., immediate past national chair of SHRM. Taylor addressed "Ten Challenges that Keep HR and Diversity Professionals Up at Night."

Following the keynote address, the 2008 Charles W. Anderson Laureate Award was presented to David A. Friedman of Louisville. Friedman was recognized for his 24 years of volunteer service protecting individuals' civil rights and civil liberties as general counsel for the Kentucky American Civil Liberties Union. The Charles W. Anderson Laureate Award is given each year to an individual who demonstrates great leadership in promoting equality in the categories of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, gender and age.

This year's luncheon was dedicated to the memory and legacy of the late Reverend Louis H. Coleman, Jr., a social rights activist, who was recently inducted into the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians.

The conference offered 20 workshops that were kicked off with a featured presentation from William H. Crouch, Jr., president of Georgetown College. Crouch presented a case

study for diversity in the commonwealth and shared insights on promoting equality in different employment sectors.

Other workshop sessions featured special guests addressing topics such as: Multi-Generational Workforce Planning and Development, Diversity as a Strategic Move to Success, Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Compliance, Investigative Techniques and Cyber Offenses and EEO Compliance.

A mid-afternoon session lead by Donna Shelton, Personnel Cabinet, addressed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and offered guidance on ADA compliance in the workplace. This session was aimed to raise awareness for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, recognized each October.

“As we endeavor to create a more inclusive workplace, we look forward to the journey that lies ahead,” said Michele’ Lawlis, Executive Director of the Office of Diversity and Equality. “This year’s conference reminds us of the dedication and sacrifices of past leaders in the struggle for justice and equality; while challenging us to strengthen our personal and professional commitments.”

To learn more about the Personnel Cabinet’s Office of Diversity and Equality please visit <http://personnel.ky.gov/diversity/> .

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